

Casey Saves the Play

Casey dipped her paintbrush in a tray of yellow paint. She was painting stars on a huge screen of wood. The school play this year was "Songs in Space!" Casey had agreed to paint the sets.

While she worked, the actors rehearsed on stage. A girl named Amelia had the lead role. She played an astronaut exploring a new planet. Now she was singing her big song.

*"I always thought that aliens were scary...
But on this planet the alien is me!"*

Casey quietly sang along as she painted. She had heard the play being practiced over and over. She knew the words to all the songs by heart. Her friend Kareem helped her paint. "You should try out for the next play," he said. "You're good." Casey blushed. "You're just saying that because you're my friend," she said. "I'm way too shy to act on stage like that."

The next day was the big dress rehearsal for the play. Casey and Kareem were done painting. They were cleaning up their supplies when Ms. Brown, the director, came in. "It's a disaster!" she said. "Poor Amelia broke her foot in gym today. She can't be in the play. What will we do?" Kareem raised his hand. "I know," he said. "Casey knows all the words to the songs. She can take over Amelia's part!"

Everyone looked at Casey. She suddenly wished she were invisible. "No way!" she said. "Not me!" "If this is true, Casey, you must do it!" Ms. Brown said. "It's the only way to save the play!"